Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (Currently amended): An electronic camera comprising:

a white balance correcting ~~means~~ circuit for correcting white balance of a picked-up image by picking up an image of first object on the basis of white balance data obtained by ~~beforehand~~ picking up an image of a ~~predetermined~~ second object;

an automatic focusing ~~mechanism~~ circuit having a plurality of distance measuring points on an image picking-up plane and arranged to automatically perform a focusing operation ~~by detecting a high frequency component of a picked-up image signal~~ while using the plurality of distance measuring points; and

a control ~~means~~ circuit for, when picking up ~~an~~ the image of the ~~predetermined~~ second object ~~so as to obtain white balance data to be used for said white balance correcting means~~, controlling the operation of said automatic focusing ~~mechanism~~ circuit so that said automatic focusing circuit automatically performs a focusing operation by using at least ~~by causing said automatic focusing mechanism to selectively use, from among the plurality of distance measuring points on the image picking-up plane,~~ one ~~predetermined~~ distance measuring point ~~or a predetermined number of distance measuring points that are smaller in number than the~~ and without using at least one distance measuring point in the plurality of distance measuring points.

Claim 2 (Currently amended): An electronic camera according to claim 1, wherein said control ~~means~~ circuit controls the operation of said automatic focusing

~~mechanism~~ circuit to make a determination level with which said automatic focusing ~~mechanism~~ circuit determines an in-focus state lower than that used for an ordinary image picking-up operation.

Claim 3 (Currently amended): An electronic camera according to claim 1, wherein the ~~predetermined~~ second object is white in color.

Claim 4 (Currently amended): An electronic camera comprising:

a white balance correcting ~~means~~ circuit for correcting white balance of a picked-up image by picking up an image of first object on the basis of white balance data obtained by ~~beforehand~~ picking up an image of ~~a predetermined~~ second object;

an automatic focusing ~~mechanism~~ circuit arranged to automatically perform a focusing operation ~~by detecting a high-frequency component of a picked-up image signal~~; and

a control ~~means~~ circuit for~~, when~~ picking up ~~an~~ the image of the ~~predetermined~~ second object ~~so as to obtain white balance data to be used for said white balance correcting means, inhibiting the operation of said automatic focusing mechanism~~ without operating said automatic focusing circuit, when picking up the image of the second object while a mode in which the focusing operation is automatically performed is set up.

Claim 5 (Currently amended): An electronic camera according to claim 4, the ~~predetermined~~ second object is white in color.

Claims 6 and 7 (Cancelled).

Claim 8 (Currently amended): A control method for controlling an electronic camera having an automatic focusing ~~mechanism~~ circuit having a plurality of distance measuring points on an image picking-up plane and arranged to automatically perform a focusing operation ~~by detecting a high-frequency component of a picked-up image signal~~

while using the plurality of distance measuring points, said control method comprising the steps of:

correcting white balance of a picked-up image by picking up an image of first object on the basis of white balance data obtained by ~~beforehand~~ picking up an image of a ~~predetermined~~ second object; and

when picking up ~~an~~ the image of the ~~predetermined~~ second object ~~so as to obtain the white balance data~~, controlling the operation of said automatic focusing ~~mechanism~~ circuit so that said automatic focusing circuit automatically performs a focusing operation by using at least ~~by causing said automatic focusing mechanism to selectively use, from among the plurality of distance measuring points on the image picking-up plane,~~ one ~~predetermined~~ distance measuring point ~~or a predetermined number of distance measuring points that are smaller in number than~~ and without using at least one distance measuring point in the plurality of distance measuring points.

Claim 9 (Currently amended): A control method according to claim 8, further comprising the step of controlling the operation of said automatic focusing ~~mechanism~~ circuit to make a determination level with which said automatic focusing ~~mechanism~~ circuit determines an in-focus state lower than that used for an ordinary image picking-up operation.

Claim 10 (Currently amended): A control method according to claim 8, wherein the ~~predetermined~~ second object is white in color.

Claim 11 (Currently amended): A control method for controlling an electronic camera having an automatic focusing ~~mechanism~~ circuit arranged to automatically perform a focusing operation ~~by detecting a high-frequency component of a picked-up image signal~~, said control method comprising the steps of:

correcting white balance of a picked-up image by picking up an image of first object on the basis of white balance data obtained by ~~beforehand~~ picking up an image of ~~a~~ ~~predetermined~~ second object; and

~~when~~ picking up ~~an~~ the image of the ~~predetermined~~ second object ~~so as to obtain the white balance data, inhibiting the operation of said automatic focusing mechanism~~ without operating said automatic focusing circuit, when picking up the image of the second object while a mode in which the focusing operation is automatically performed is set up.

Claim 12 (Currently amended): A control method according to claim 11, wherein the ~~predetermined~~ second object is white in color.

Claim 13 and 14 (Cancelled).

Claim 15 (Currently amended): A storage medium which stores therein a program for executing a process for controlling an electronic camera having an automatic focusing ~~mechanism~~ circuit having a plurality of distance measuring points on an image picking-up plane and arranged to automatically perform a focusing operation ~~by detecting a high-frequency component of a picked-up image signal~~ while using the plurality of distance measuring points, said process comprising:

correcting white balance of a picked-up image by picking up an image of first object on the basis of white balance data obtained by ~~beforehand~~ picking up an image of a ~~predetermined~~ second object; and

when picking up ~~an~~ the image of the ~~predetermined~~ second object ~~so as to obtain the white balance data~~, controlling the operation of said automatic focusing ~~mechanism~~ circuit so that said automatic focusing circuit automatically performs a focusing operation by using at least ~~by causing said automatic focusing mechanism to selectively use, from among the~~

~~plurality of distance measuring points on the image picking-up plane,~~ one ~~predetermined~~ distance measuring point ~~or a predetermined number of distance measuring points that are smaller in number~~ and without using at least one distance measuring point in the plurality of distance measuring points.

Claim 16 (Currently amended): A storage medium according to claim 15, wherein said process further comprises controlling the operation of said automatic focusing ~~mechanism~~ circuit to make a determination level with which said automatic focusing ~~mechanism~~ circuit determines an in-focus state lower than that used for an ordinary image picking-up operation.

Claim 17 (Currently amended): A storage medium according to claim 15, wherein the ~~predetermined~~ second object is white in color.

Claim 18 (Currently amended): A storage medium which stores therein a program for executing a process for controlling an electronic camera having an automatic focusing ~~mechanism~~ circuit arranged to automatically perform a focusing operation ~~by detecting a high-frequency component of a picked-up image signal~~, said process comprising:

correcting white balance of a picked-up image by picking up an image of first object on the basis of white balance data obtained by ~~beforehand~~ picking up an image of a ~~predetermined~~ second object; and

~~when~~ picking up ~~an~~ the image of the ~~predetermined~~ second object ~~so as to obtain the white balance data, inhibiting the operation of said automatic focusing mechanism~~ without operating said automatic focusing circuit, when picking up the image of the second object while a mode in which the focusing operation is automatically performed is set up.

Claim 19 (Currently amended): A storage medium according to claim 18, wherein the ~~predetermined~~ second object is white in color.

Claim 20 and 21 (Cancelled).

Claim 22 (New): An electric camera comprising:

a white balance correcting circuit for correcting white balance of a picked-up image by picking up an image of first object on the basis of white balance data obtained by picking up an image of a second object;

a focusing circuit arranged to perform a focusing operation; and

a control circuit for, when picking up the image of the second object, controlling the operation of said focusing circuit to make a determination level with which said focusing circuit determines an in-focus state lower than that used for an image picking-up operation when picking up the image of the first object.

Claim 23 (New): An electric camera comprising:

a white balance correcting circuit for correcting white balance of a picked-up image by picking up an image of first object on the basis of white balance data obtained by picking up an image of second object as a first white balance mode, and on the basis of white balance data, corresponding to a light source, which has been beforehand prepared as a second white balance mode;

an operation element for selecting a manual mode in which a user that operates the electric camera picks up the second object, or a light source mode, wherein said operation element is operated by said user;

a focusing circuit arranged to perform a focusing operation; and

a control circuit for controlling said focusing circuit so that the focusing operation when picking up said first object differs from the focusing operation when picking up said second object;

wherein said first white balance mode is operated according to selecting the manual mode, and said second white balance mode is operated according to selecting the light source mode.

Claim 24 (New): An electric camera according to claim 22, wherein said second object is white in color.

Claim 25 (New): An electric camera according to claim 23, wherein said second object is white in color.

Claim 26 (New): An electric camera according to claim 1, further comprising:

an operation element for selecting a manual mode in which a user that operates the electric camera picks up the second object, said operation element is operated by said user,

wherein said white balance correcting circuit is operated according to selecting the manual mode.

Claim 27 (New): An electric camera according to claim 4, further comprising:

an operation element for selecting a manual mode in which a user that operates the electric camera picks up the second object, said operation element is operated by said user,

wherein said white balance correcting circuit is operated according to selecting the manual mode.

Claim 28 (New): An electric camera according to claim 22, further comprising:

an operation element for selecting a manual mode in which a user that operates the electric camera picks up the second object, said operation element is operated by said user,

wherein said white balance correcting circuit is operated according to selecting the manual mode.

Claim 29 (New): A control method for controlling an electric camera having a focusing circuit arranged to perform a focusing operation, said control method comprising the steps of:

correcting white balance of a picked-up image by picking up an image of first object on the basis of white balance data obtained by picking up an image of a second object; and

when picking up the image of the second object, controlling the operation of said focusing circuit to make a determination level with which said focusing circuit determines an in-focus state lower than that used for an image picking-up operation when picking up the image of the first object.

Claim 30 (New): A control method for controlling an electric camera according to claim 29, wherein said second object is white in color.

Claim 31 (New): A control method for controlling an electric camera according to claim 29, further comprising a step of selecting a manual mode in which a user that operates the electric camera picks up the second object, wherein said step of correcting white balance is operated according to selecting the manual mode.

Claim 32 (New): A control method for controlling an electric camera having a focusing circuit arranged to perform a focusing operation and an operation element for selecting a manual mode in which a user that operates the electric camera picks up the second object, or a light source mode, wherein said operation element is operated by said user, said control method comprising the steps of:

correcting white balance of a picked-up image by picking up an image of first object on the basis of white balance data obtained by picking up an image of second object as a first white balance mode, and on the basis of white balance data corresponding to a light source, which has been beforehand prepared as a second white balance mode; and

controlling said focusing circuit so that the focusing operation when picking up said first object differs from the focusing operation when picking up said second object;

wherein said first white balance mode is operated according to selecting the manual mode, and said second white balance mode is operated according to selecting the light source mode.

Claim 33 (New): A control method for controlling an electric camera according to claim 32, wherein said second object is white in color.

Claim 34 (New): A storage medium which stores therein a program for executing a process for controlling an electric camera having a focusing circuit arranged to perform a focusing operation, said process comprising:

correcting white balance of a picked-up image by picking up an image of first object on the basis of white balance data obtained by picking up an image of a second object; and

when picking up the image of the second object, controlling the operation of said focusing circuit to make a determination level with which said focusing circuit determines an in-focus state lower than that used for an image picking-up operation when picking up the image of the first object.

Claim 35 (New): A storage medium according to claim 34, wherein said second object is white in color.

Claim 36 (New): A storage medium according to claim 35, further comprising:

selecting a manual mode in which a user that operates the electric camera picks up the second object,

wherein said step of correcting white balance is operated according to selecting the manual mode.

Claim 37 (New): A storage medium which stores therein a program for executing a process for controlling an electric camera having a focusing circuit arranged to perform a focusing operation and an operation element for selecting a manual mode in which a user that operates the electric camera picks up the second object, or a light source mode, said process comprising:

correcting white balance of a picked-up image by picking up an image of first object on the basis of white balance data obtained by picking up an image of second object as a first white balance mode, and on the basis of white balance data corresponding to a light source, which has been beforehand prepared as a second white balance mode; and

controlling said focusing circuit so that the focusing operation when picking up said first object differs from the focusing operation when picking up said second object;

wherein said first white balance mode is operated according to selecting the manual mode, and said second white balance mode is operated according to selecting the light source mode.

Claim 38 (New): A storage medium according to claim 37, wherein said second object is white in color.